

CAMPING OVERNIGHT AT THE CHARMING BEED'S LAKE STATE PARK

Beed's Lake State Park is located in northern Iowa, just three miles away from the city of Hampton. I spent one night there during a camping trip I took in July, and instantly decided it's one of my favorites I've been to so far.

After setting up my tent I explored the campground a bit. There are 144 total sites there, 99 of them with electricity. There are several great non-electric sites located right next to the lake, so a lot of kids and teenagers were fishing off the shoreline by their tent. There is a boat dock near the campground so people fishing out on the lake could pull up to their campsite for a break. A fish cleaning station is also located by the campground shoreline so you can prepare what you catch right at your site and cook it over your campfire.



My favorite part was sitting by the fire in the evening and lying in my tent at night, where I was able to hear several soothing sounds surrounding the campground. Tall, white pines whispered in the wind and I could hear the rush of water from the spillway, sounding almost like a waterfall in the distance.

The next morning I got up early to explore and find this spillway. I set out on the two-mile trail that is open for hikers, bicyclists, joggers and cross-country skiers in the winter. Along the trail I got to experience viewing a wide variety of plants, especially a lot of ferns growing out of the limestone.

As I walked down several sets of stone stairs, the sound of the spillway got louder and louder until it finally came into view, and it was beautiful.



This dam and spillway were constructed by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in the 1930's. It is 170 feet long and the water drops straight downwards 50 feet along the layers of limestone. This is a great place to take a break along the trail, cool of in the mist and enjoy the view.



After my hike I was ready to cool of myself, so we headed to check out the beach area. There was a large, beautiful lodge near the beach, which had also been built by the CCC. There was pristine landscaping around this building and inside were huge log beams on the ceiling and neat picnic tables handcrafted with native hardwoods.

Arriving at the beach we were able to lay our towels in the direct sunlight to tan, but there were also several shady areas some teenagers were sitting under to cool off. I saw a couple families enjoying a paddleboats and kayaks they had rented from the stand near the beach.



After swimming for a while we got hungry, and were able to pick up something to munch on from the concessionaire located right by the beach. If you decided to visit Beed's Lake last minute, you wouldn't have to worry about packing much because they sold a wide variety of food and snacks here.

I loved my visit to Beed's Lake State Park, and was able to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor recreation here. If you're looking for a relaxing destination in Iowa, Beed's Lake has a lot to offer.